

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings stating that Figure 1 should be labeled “prior art”. It is respectfully submitted that although Figure 1 may look familiar, the written description of Figure 1 clearly indicates that it is not prior art. The Applicant proposes a different change to Figure 1, which is attached hereto as a proposed drawing correction. In the proposed drawing correction, the elements of the system are labeled.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. Claim 1 is directed to a system which includes a geometric modeling system storing a shared earth model wherein changes made to the shared earth model are published over a network via directory services. Claim 14 is directed to a method which includes allowing authorized users to edit a shared earth model and automatically publishing the fact that the shared earth model was edited.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-84 of U.S. Patent Number 6,519,568. The ‘568 patent involves related technology but is actually quite different from the present invention. The ‘568 patent has five independent claims: 1, 37, 60, 82, and 83.

Claim 1 of the ‘568 patent is directed to a data delivery system which responds to “a workflow order” and in which data is displayed simultaneously at multiple delivery sites. This is quite different from the present invention as claimed in independent claims

1 and 4 which are centered around the concept of multiple users editing a shared earth model.

Claim 37 of the '568 patent is directed to a method for real-time data delivery which includes processing a workflow order, transmitting data from an acquisition site over a first network to a hub, transmitting data from the hub over a second network to a data server, the data server having the ability to send data for simultaneous display at multiple sites. This also does not relate to the present invention. Keep in mind that an object of the present invention is to allow multiple users to access the shared earth model from different locations at different times.

Claim 60 of the '568 patent is directed to a method for delivering data from an acquisition site to multiple delivery sites which includes receiving a workflow order at a hub, breaking the workflow order into a task having parameters and dependencies, dispatching the task, executing it, and monitoring its status. This clearly has nothing to do with the present invention.

Claim 82 of the '568 patent is directed to a method for delivering near real-time data from an acquisition site to multiple delivery sites which includes processing a workflow order at a hub, transmitting data from an acquisition site to the hub over a first network, sending data from the hub to multiple delivery sites for simultaneous display. This still does not relate to the present invention.

Claim 83 of the ‘568 patent is directed to a method for delivering near real-time data from an acquisition site to multiple delivery sites which includes transmitting data from an acquisition site to a hub in response to “a user-specified workflow order program”, formatting the data for multiple sites based on delivery site requirements, routing the data to a hard copy delivery site, and routing the data to multiple delivery sites. Still there is no suggestion of multiple users editing a shared earth model as claimed herein.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims herein are not obvious over the claims of the ‘568 patent.

Claims 1-18 also stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by the disclosure of the ‘568 patent.

It has already been demonstrated that the claims of the ‘568 patent are directed to an invention which is completely different from the present invention which is centered around a shared earth model which can be edited by multiple users at different locations at different times. A careful review of the ‘568 patent reveals no teaching or suggestion of a shared earth model. There is not even a suggestion of editing any kind of model. The only discussion of changing or editing anything is related to editing the system, e.g. adding and deleting users and resources, changing addresses and publication parameters. See, e.g., columns 12 and 23.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is neither taught nor suggested by the '568 patent.

Claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by a copending application which was not identified in the Official Action. The Examiner was contacted by telephone on July 7, 2004 and he indicated that this rejection was interrupted by a misplaced boilerplate paragraph and that there is no further rejection of the claims.

The above arguments regarding the '568 patent were also summarized for the Examiner during the telephone conversation and the Examiner indicated that method claim 14 and its dependents is allowable as written. The Examiner also indicated that system claim 1 would be allowable if amended to indicate that the changes in the shared earth model were changes made by users and not in real time. It is believed that the amendment to claim 1 herein should satisfy the Examiner.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosed: Proposed Drawing Correction

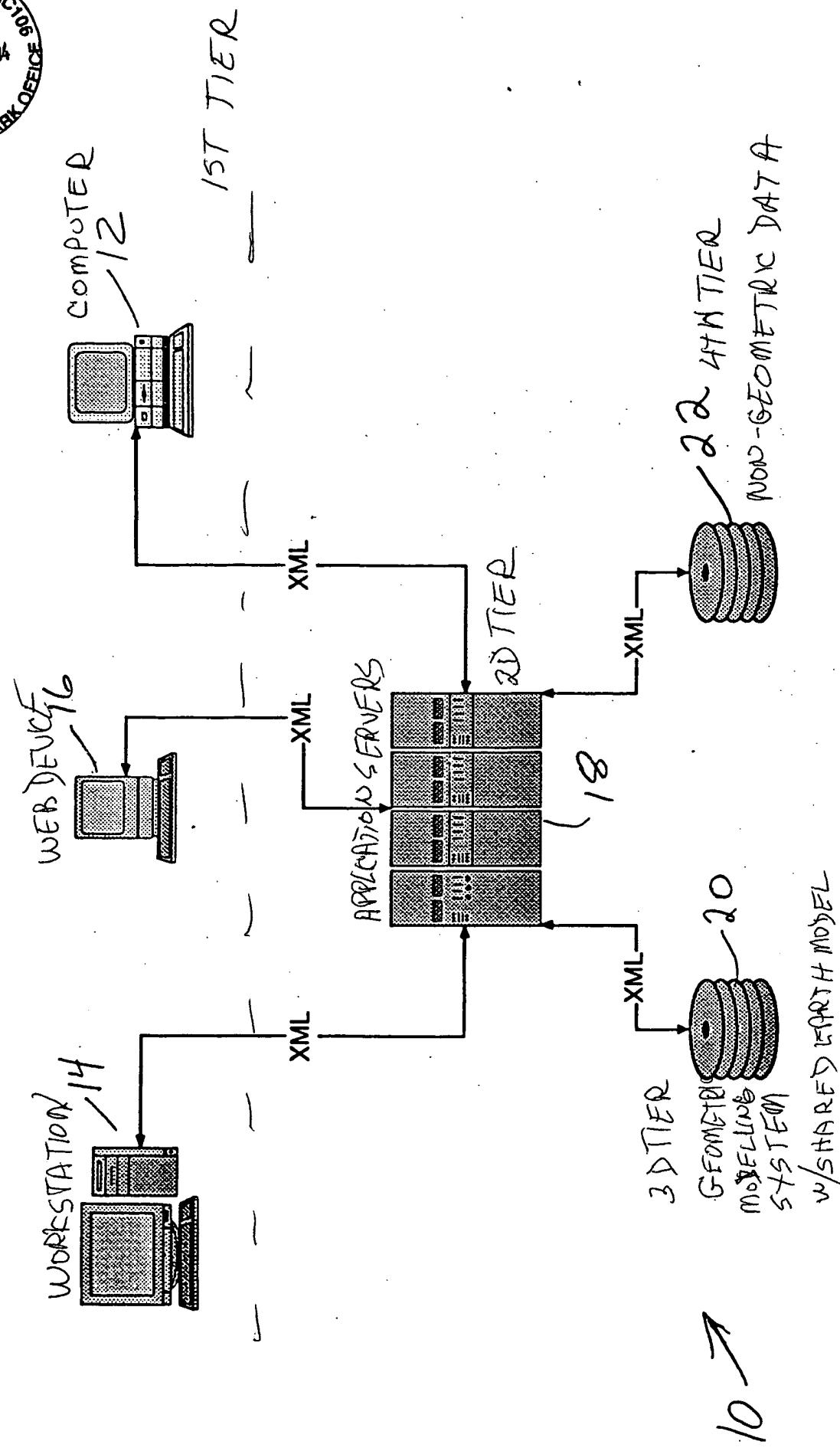


Figure 1